A SPEECH MADE IN THE LOVVER HOVSE OF PARLAMENT,

By Sir Edward Cicell, Colonell.

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made in the Lower House of Parliament, By Sir *Edward Cicill* Colonell.

THis Honorable House, Is composed of diuers professions, And euery one of us, according to the experience his profession hath learned him, is bound to deliuer, what in conscience he shall thinke needfull, for the glorie of God and the good of the Kingdome, which is a seruice here, wherin I haue been a daily witnesse of other mens painfullnes. The worthinesse of the example requireth me not to be silent, and I would to God a Souldier had lesse occasion to speake in this place, where the businesse of war, is become so great a Stranger, but that for our neighbours (whose houses are one fire) we should vtterly forget it: by the light of those fires, we may see our dangers and be aduised to prouide against them, which is the point I would now speake vpon. The defence of Religion, and the safetie of the Land, are the things in danger. For though we inioy them by reason of the peace we inioy, yet it is a peace of such nature, as cannot assure them vnto vs, because no peace is able to maintaine it selfe vnarmed. We are then to consider on the one side, who is the enimy we are to prouide against, how great our danger is, and how neere it is. On the other side, what defence we stand in neede of, and when we are to prouide it. First, who is the greatest Enimy we haue in respect of our Religion. The Catholike King is euident, by the protection he giueth our Papists and traytors, and by his nourishing the Seminaries and Iesuites of our Nation.

2. Who is the greatest enimy we haue, in respect of the

State. It followeth the Catholike King, whose ambition, it hath ever been through the sides of Religion to thrust at the heart of the state, his Title of Catholike King, reflecting more vpon vniuersall Monarchy, then greatnesse of religion. That it hath been his Ambition to create himselfe Monarch of the world, his consultations, & designes haue giuen cleare testimonie, and vnder pretence of Religion, he colours his quarrell for it. So that England is not onely a part comprehended in his ambition, but the cheife marke of his offence, because both in respect of Religion and state, England is the greatest impediment in his way. But some will imagine (it may be) that his ambition he had to the Monarchy of the whole world, is a good while agoe dead in his mind, I assure my selfe, it neuer dyed, somewhat indeed the action and forme of it was laid in the beginning of his truce with the States, but if euer it were dead, there is nothing more certaine, then that it is renewed againe to more life then euer it had, which if it please the honour and wisdome of this house to giue me the hearing, I will manifest vnto them. The successe of the House of Austria in Germany hath incouraged them, and raised anew spirit of ambition in them. It hath crowned them with a new reputation, & a great one It calleth vpon them to follow their good fortune, which they haue these promises for. Their rooting in the Palatine, for the displanting of a whole Countrey of our religion. The weaknesse of the Princes of the Vnion which is discouered, to be such in their last cold actions, (that we may truly say) what doth remaine vnlost of Germany which was neuer lost before, doth hold but vpon courtesie, Then the passages that these successes, do offer to open him downe into the United Prouinces, in the body of which state they haue a faction now a working, the sect of the *Arminians*, which is altogether thing that animateth them. Out of the Low Countries they cannot but looke into England which will carry all the rest. The King of Spaine hauing now the aduantage in *Italy* to make himselfe the master of it by his fort he hath raised in *Valtolena*, for the blocking vp of almost all *Italy*, specially the anci-

ancient common-wealth of *Venice*, our intire friends. And lastly the dangers, the house of *Austria* and the Church of *Rome* haue been in, and the hopes they are now in, will be still pricking them forwards to follow their good fortune. These things considered, who can so flatter himself or imagine, that the catholique Kings ambition, to the monarchy of the whole world is dead, thus great an enimy we haue, and thus affected, and yet we are unarmed. Now then that we may know the enemy we haue to prouide against, Let us consider how great our danger is, in that which I haue spoken already: The greatest of it is mainely understood, yet to understand it the better, we are to looke on those of the Religion in France, who were neuer so dangerously threatned as now, nor had neuer such cause to quake, in so much as did they not hope of relieue out of this Kingdome, I think they would yeeld presently to mercy, and how can we releiue our neighbours that are in so able disposition to vphold our selues. Againe, to vnderstand our danger the better, now we haue weighed the condition and State of friends and enemies abroad, Let us examine how it stands with us here at home, how many Papists liue here amongst us, that vnder the Church cause, carrie euill mindes to the state, to their owne native Countrie, and could be will ing to see it bleed to death, at the foote of a stranger, at the foote of the King of Spaine, so farre doe the Papists of our Nation differ from others. For such faithfull seruants are ours to that forreine Prince, as that they will not onely hold arguments against the Maiestie of their owne King, and his children, and raile more then any of our best neighbours and friends, but will spend their study & venture their liues, to make the Spanish King the *Monarch of Christendome*, so wel they haue profited vnder their Maisters the Iesuites, those faithfull Councellors of Spaine, & at this very houre, I assure my self, the succesle in Germany is their present obiect, & the good they promis themselues by it, their obiect in future, euen very now they are discourring of it, and growing prowd in the destruction it threatens vs withall: the houses of Parliament where we

do now sir, doe heare record against them, in the vnmatchable treason the powder plot, thus great our danger is, and yet we are vnarmed, and that is our greatest danger.

The third thing wee are to consider in the danger, is how neere it is vnto vs, for although we heare the Spaniard is as farre from vs as the Palatine, yet if wee will take the distance, either by the scale of State or Warre, we must judge our danger, not much farther from vs then our Sea coasts. In our profession of armes its a principle, that if the Counter scarfe be gained, though it be beyond the ditch the whole fortification is accounted lost. For the Rampier serues but for a defence to make a composition, so that if you will be contens to lose the Counterscarfe, then you must thinke of nothing but a composition. And with whom will you thinke to compound, with an enimy that will keepe good quarter? no, with one that will keepe the same quarter, the woolfe doth with the lambe. If you will doe as no good souldier euer did, that is, suffer your enemy to dwell in your out workes, while his friends among vs, are expecting of him within, and neuer look to arme and defend our selues, its best for you to yeeld betimes, For yeelding is like to proue the best of the successe: but if you haue no beleife in that kinde of security, let vs doe as the Israelites did, pray and treat with our swordes in our hands, for England that hath bin at the least 4 times conquered, was neuer in more danger then it is at this present, thus great, yea thus neere our danger is, and yet wee are vnarmed.

Now for the defence we stand in need of, we are to consider the oppression of his Maiesties Issue, that we are bound in honour and safetie to redeeme them out of it, and we are to looke to the defence of our owne countrey against inuasion, which England was neuer subiect to for want of nũber but for want of military strength & order. For the warres abroad, ther is required a great Army, for the defence at home a more sufficient & better discipline, & a more sincere execution of laws against the Papists. The first touching the redeeming of the Palatis first to be resolued on, which brings me now to the consideration of our danger, when we are to prouide a-

gainst

gainſt it, I pray God it be not too late, you may vnderſtand by that prayer my opinion, when we are to prouid againſt it is now Inſtantly; Let vs looſe no time, not a day not an houre not a minuite. The ſeaſon of the yeare requireth it, for if we looſe the ſeaſon, which is to be ready with a royall Army, againſt the begining of the ſpring, and ſo ſuffer the Spaniſh ſide to goe on this yeare as did the laſt, you cannot conceiue how it will be in the power of man to keep him from the abſolute height of his ambition. Let vs not treat with him, but as I ſaid before with our ſwords in our hands, his treaties otherwaies are ominous Let vs all fall down vpon our knees, with a communion of minde to God for his preſence among vs, and then immediately fal into conſultation for the ſpeedy Preparing of mony, armes, munition, and good hearts for the defence of Religion, his Maieſtie, his children, and the ſafety of the Common-wealth, for the prouiding whereof, mony is the firſt material, but it hath bin ſuggeſted by ſome, that the hearing of the ſubiects grieuances, and the redreſſing of the was the firſt buſines in Parliaments, admit it be ſo. For the ſame reaſon then a ſubſidie is the firſt thing at this Parliament to be inacted, for the preſent neceſſitie of defending of the Kingdome is the publike grieuance of the whole Common-wealth, all other are but particular and priuate grieuances in reſpect of this, and this cannot be redreſſed without a ſubſidie, nor that freely and preſently granted. Other matters for the moſt part do concern but ſome of them one member, and ſome another of the Commen-wealth, and may haue more time to de liberate on: but this concernes the whole Land, we are all ingaged in it for our ſelues, and for our poſteritie, and it cannot admit of any delay, for it is our own cauſe as well as the Kings, and the thing wee ſhould rather offer, then be ſought vnto for, ſeeing it will be money laid out in our extreame neceſſitie, for our owne ſafeties, if we neglect this, we ſhall in effect be as bad as our enemies inſtruments, and ſo offer all the reſt of our labours to peril. From which God of his mercie defend vs.

FINIS.